

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2 and 18 without prejudice, and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A data structure embodied on a computer readable medium, configured as an interface definition of a message format of a particular eCommerce transaction request type, comprising:

protocol information identifying a protocol and the particular eCommerce transaction request type;

request data format: information identifying a request message format for the particular eCommerce transaction request type, wherein the request message format comprises a plurality of input fields; and

input field information identifying at least a portion of the plurality of input fields and identifying a physical location, in a request message having the request message format, of each input field of at least the portion of the plurality of input fields.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The data structure of claim 1, wherein the protocol is selected from the group comprising cXML and mXML.

4. (Currently Amended) The data structure of claim 1, wherein the transaction request type is a purchase order.

5. (Original) The data structure of claim 1, wherein a total number of fields of the plurality of input fields identified by the input field information is less than all of the plurality of input fields.

6. (Currently Amended) The data structure of claim 1, wherein the plurality of input fields includes input fields for at least two different request types and wherein the

input fi Id information represents a given one of the at least two only a first request types.

7. (Original) The data structure of claim 1, wherein the protocol information further identifies a sub-transaction type.

8. (Original) The data structure of claim 1, wherein the eCommerce transaction type is selected from a group comprising of a purchase order, a change purchase order, a remote catalog shopping request, an invoice request and a shopping basket content request.

9. (Original) The data structure of claim 1, wherein the input field information comprises a corresponding input field corresponding to each field of the portion of the plurality of input fields.

10. (Original) The data structure of claim 9, wherein a name of at least one field of the portion of the plurality of input fields is different than a name of the corresponding input field corresponding to the at least one field.

11. (Currently Amended) The data structure of claim 1, further comprising:
response data format information identifying a response message format for the particular eCommerce transaction request type, wherein the response message format comprises a plurality of output fields; and

output field information identifying at least a portion of the plurality of output fields.

12. (Original) The data structure of claim 11, wherein a total number of fields of the plurality of output fields identified by the output field information is less than all of the plurality of output fields.

13. (Currently Amended) The data structure of claim 11, wherein the plurality of output fields includes output fields for at least two different request types and wherein the output field information represents a given one of the at least two only a first request types, which request type is the same as represented by the input field information.

14. (Currently Amended) The data structure of claim 11, wherein the input field information and the output field information is configured for mapping to an application access method, wherein the application access method is configured to describe an interface to an application.

15. (Original) The data structure of claim 14, wherein the application access method is selected from a program call access method, a java access method and a queue application access method.

16. (Currently Amended) A data structure embodied on a computer-readable medium configured as an interface definition of a request message format and a response message format of a particular eCommerce transaction type, comprising:

protocol information identifying a protocol and a transaction type;

request data format information identifying the request message format, wherein the request message format comprises a plurality of input fields for at least two different request types; and

input field information identifying at least a portion of the plurality of input fields and identifying a physical location, in a request message, of each input field of at least the portion of the plurality of input fields, wherein the plurality of input fields includes input fields for at least two different request types and wherein the input field information represents a given one of the at least two only a first request types;

response data format information identifying a response message format, wherein the response message format comprises a plurality of output fields for the at least two different request types; and

output field information identifying at least a portion of the plurality of output fields and identifying a physical location, in a response message having the response

message format, of each input field of at least the portion of the plurality of output fields, wherein the plurality of output fields includes output fields for the at least two different request types and wherein the output field information represents only the given one of the at least two first request types.

17. (Currently Amended) The data structure of claim 16, wherein the transaction request type is a purchase order.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The data structure of claim 16, wherein the input field information and the output field information is configured for mapping to an application access method, wherein the application access method is configured to describe an interface to an application configured to process the particular eCommerce transaction type.

20. (Previously Presented) The data structure of claim 16, wherein the input field information comprises a corresponding input field corresponding to each field of the portion of the plurality of input fields and wherein the output field information comprises a corresponding output field corresponding to each field of the portion of the plurality of output fields.